

Outlook

Vicenza and Darby Military Communities

August 13 2015 | Vol. 48 | Issue 16

SOLDIERS LEARN LIFE SKILLS IN AMAZING QUEST



**ARMY DEFINES
ONLINE
MISCONDUCT**

**AAFES CEO, DIRECTOR
VISITS
VICENZA**

**TEAM ADVANCES
LANGUAGE
TRANSLATION
IN AFRICA**



CONTENTS

- 4 **Army defines 'online misconduct'**
- 5 **Counter-drone demonstration unites U.S. military, industry, allied nations**
- 6 **Science, technology team advances language translation in Africa**
- 7 **Exchange CEO visits Vicenza store**
- 8 **Staying SHARP: Program builds on sexual assault prevention momentum**
- 10 **BOSS Soldiers set out on Amazing Quest**
- 12 **509th Signal Battalion reaches 4-year milestone**
- 13 **History and a hike: Group participates in professional development training at 52 tunnels**
- 14 **Mental skills training improves performance**
- 15 **Vicenza plays host to U.S. Ambassador at Womens's Equality Day observance**
- 15 **Pian di Novello honors heroes**
- 16 **Retired general recalls 1981 terrorist kidnapping**
- 17 **Spouses enjoy Korean traditions in Italy**
- 19 **Children learn, have fun at Vacation Bible School**
- 20 **Travel: Benedictine Abbey reflects simplicity, serenity**
- 22 **Family and MWR events, happenings**
- 28 **OUT & ABOUT -- What to do in the local area**

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IMCOM Baseball Championship Tournament 2015



The Vicenza Child and Youth Services Bantam team placed second in the Installation Management Command baseball championship tournament held in Stuttgart in June.

The team played under the supervision and guidance of Head Coach Jake Rose and Assistant Coach Grant Sullivan.

The dedicated efforts of supportive coaching led the CYS Vicenza Yankees to demonstrate superior sportsmanship and effort in playing five games in two days. The team played games against Bavaria, Wiesbaden, and Stuttgart.

Players are: Austin Rose, Sean Sullivan, Tyler Hale, Jake Leible, Kasey Russell, Shamil Aliyev, Elijah Britton, Clay Cashman, Cortland Finrock and Myles Wheeler. (Information and photos contributed by Yvonne Leible)



Speak Out

*What are your tips
for newcomers?*



Samuel Coston

Army Community Service

"I would recommend all newcomers -- Soldiers and spouses -- visit ACS for answers to various questions."



Arlana Young

FMWR Child, Youth & School Services

"Get out and explore. Time goes quickly, and there is so much to do and see!"



Chantille Wooten

Arts and Crafts Center

"Get involved and volunteer in the community. It's a great opportunity to meet new people with similar interests."

On the cover

BOSS Soldiers participating in the Amazing Quest as part of the Life Skills program take a selfie to prove where they are on the journey. In front of the Duomo in Florence, on the left is Spec. Joseph Dallas, and on the right is Spec. Nathan Deline, from Team VII. Dallas and Deline are the winning team; they are stationed at Camp Darby.

See page 10 for more information about the event.

"Selfie" photo by **Dallas and Deline**

By
Laura Kreider

the outlook | 3

Army defines 'online misconduct'

For those still unsure of a definition, All-Army Activities message clarifies

By **C. Todd Lopez**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - If Soldiers were still unsure of what bad behavior looks like online, the Army clarified it for them in an "All Army Activities" message -- commonly called an ALARACT -- that went out forcewide last week.

Online misconduct, it says, is "the use of electronic communication to inflict harm. Examples include, but are not limited to: harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, or any other types of misconduct that undermine dignity and respect."

The ALARACT 122/2015, which comes as part of an effort to address Soldier use of social media and other online forms of communication, also defines good behavior online, "electronic communication," and "online-related incident."

"The Army Values require that everyone be treated with dignity and respect," the message reads. "Harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, and any other type of misconduct that undermines dignity and respect are not consistent with Army Values and negatively impact command climate and readiness."

The ALARACT emphasizes commanders' responsibility to "reinforce a climate where current and future members of the Army team, including Soldiers, Army civilians, contractors, and family members, understand that online misconduct is inconsistent with Army values."

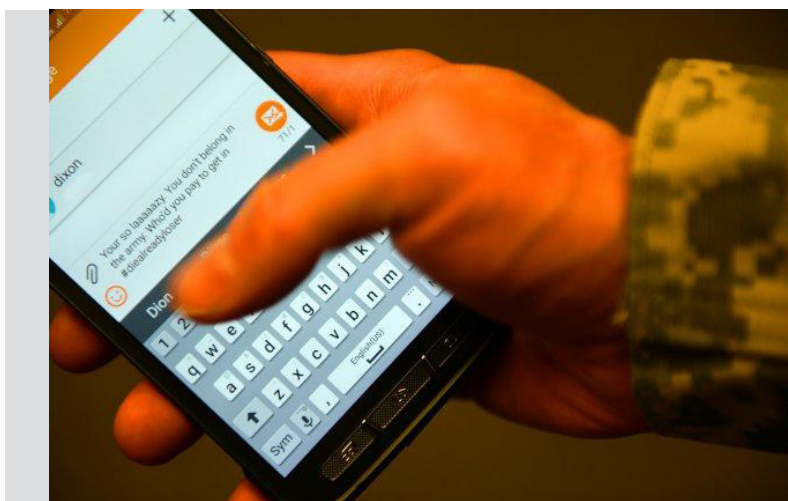
The document also said such a climate included an avenue through which "online-related incidents are prevented, reported and addressed at the lowest possible level."

In March, the Army's chief of staff directed the creation of a "tiger team" to address the issue of online misbehavior, including retribution, and to find ways to prevent and respond to harm inflicted through the use of electronic communication.

One goal of the tiger team was to create a reporting system for "online-related incidents" and report those up to senior Army leadership.

Tiger team member Lt. Col. Kay Emerson, who also serves as director of the Army's Equal Opportunity policy office, said members of the Army staff and command representatives are working now to identify the data fields and reporting requirements for such an online reporting system.

"Once collated, senior Army leadership will have a sight picture of reported online-related incidents and ac-



If Soldiers were still unsure of what bad behavior looks like online, the Army clarified it for them in an "All Army Activities" message -- commonly called an ALARACT -- that went out force-wide last week. Online misconduct, it says, is "the use of electronic communication to inflict harm. Examples include, but are not limited to: harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, or any other types of misconduct that undermine dignity and respect." (U.S. Army photo)

tions taken by commanders in the field," Emerson said.

The Army is expected to update AR 600-20 in the next published version to address online and social media violations. Emerson said she is currently re-writing paragraph 4-19 within AR 600-20 to incorporate the Department of Defense's drafted policy with the Army's online conduct efforts.

Section 4-19 of AR 600-20, called "Treatment of persons," addresses hazing and bullying, as well as command and individual responsibilities in regards to them. Both the regulation and the ALARACT direct Soldiers and Army civilians who experience or witness online misconduct to report it to their chain of command.

Additionally, section 4-19 of AR 600-20 is punitive in nature. It authorizes commanders to potentially punish those who are in violation of its direction, making failure to adhere to the Army's rules for online behavior a punishable offense.

"Soldiers who violate this policy may be subject to punishment under the UCMJ [Uniform Code of Military Justice]," the regulation reads. "Whether or not certain acts specifically violate the provisions of this paragraph, they may be inappropriate or violate relevant civilian personnel guidance."

Despite new rules and direction in regard to use of social media and other forms of electronic communication, the Army says it doesn't want to stop Soldiers from communicating online. Instead, said an Army official, when using electronic communication devices, Soldiers should apply "Think, Type, Post."

That maxim is summarized as "think about the message being communicated and who could potentially view it; type a communication that is consistent with Army values; and post only those messages that demonstrate dignity and respect for self and others."

Counter-drone demonstration unites U.S. military, industry, allied nations

By **Lisa Ferdinando**
Army News Service

POINT MUGU, Calif. -- Small, unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, are easy to obtain and launch and hard to detect on radar, making them of particular concern to the Department of Defense, according to officials taking part in the Black Dart 2015 counter-UAS demonstration.

Black Dart 2015, July 26-Aug. 7, was DoD's largest live-fly, live-fire joint counter-UAS technology demonstration to date.

The demonstration brought together some 1,000 people, including industry personnel, observers from allied nations, and participants from four military services.

Army Master Sgt. Christopher Williams of the South Carolina National Guard took part in a public demonstration July 31 and explained capabilities of the Avenger Air Defense System. The system is a lightweight, highly mobile, short-range, surface-to-air missile and gun weapon system mounted on an M1097A1 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle. He discussed the Avenger's capability to target drones.

Small drones can be launched from virtually anywhere and fly a significant radius, said Navy Cmdr. David Zook, chief, Capabilities Assessment

Division with the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization, or JIAMD.

"(This type of) aircraft has always been hard to find," he said. "It's hard to tell the difference in the radar cross section from that and other small airborne vehicles or even birds."

Black Dart 2015 provided "a unique and very valuable window for us to come together for two weeks here and practice in a littoral environment, a land-based environment and a deep-sea environment in many different scenarios," Zook said.

Zook said the demonstration featured cooperation and interoperability among military services in air and missile defense, while also assessing the anti-UAS capabilities of DOD, its agency partners and industry.

Previous Black Dart demonstrations have resulted in new systems or improvements in technology, tactics and procedures that have helped the warfighter, he said.

One only needs to look at recent news reports to see incidents involving members of the public using drones, including a quadcopter that landed at the White House, said Air Force Maj. Scott Gregg, project officer.

Drones can easily be purchased over the Internet or at a hobby shop, Gregg said. Defense officials

are focused on staying ahead of the threat.

"If there is anything that the terrorists have shown, it's that they'll be innovative and use anything that they can at their disposal to do what they're trying to do," he added.

"What we tried to do at Black Dart was make sure that we are staying ahead of the game and that we have a good understanding of their capabilities before those capabilities outpace ours," he said.

The smaller class of drones was an "emphasis item" this year at Black Dart, in response to concerns from combatant commanders and interagency partners, including law enforcement agencies, Gregg said.

"It's a problem for everyone," he said.

More than 70 countries are using UASs, either in government or military application, Gregg said. He pointed out that radio-controlled model aircraft have similar performance and capabilities to some of UASs considered to be threats.

"It's a burgeoning market. The threat is expanding rapidly, proliferation is expanding rapidly and it's not just a military threat," he said. "Our allies are using them, our coalition partners are using them, but our adversaries are using them too."

**Vicenza Military Community
RESILIENCY EXPO
and Information Fair**

Wednesday, September 9
from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Ederle Library Parking Lot

Community members both new and old, get ready and resilient during the **Resiliency Expo**. You'll also find your one-stop-shop for community info!

For more information, call 634-5087.
www.vicenza.armyMWR.com

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Share your concerns, positive experiences and more through this customer evaluation system. Your comments matter!

www.usagvicenza.army.mil



Spc. Tara Morrison (left) and Pfc. Brian Hollenbeck, both with Headquarters Support Company, U.S. Army Africa, test the SQ.410 Translation System in Vicenza. (U.S. Army photo)

No longer lost in translation

Science, technology team advances language communication in Africa

By **Dan Lafontaine**
RDECOM Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. - A U.S. Army team is testing and helping to develop a language translator that will enable Soldiers to communicate with their African counterparts.

Improving the ability of American servicemembers to communicate in foreign languages, particularly in French dialects, is becoming critical in Africa, said Maj. Eddie Strimel, Field Assistance in Science and Technology, or FAST, advisor assigned to U.S. Army Africa.

U.S. Soldiers conduct training and exercises regularly in about 20 of Africa's 54 countries, he said.

"We believe Africa is a future frontier for technology in the next 10 to 15 years. French is a priority for us. If we can get these dialects

developed with this type of system, it will benefit the Army, Air Force and Marines down the road," he said.

FAST advisers, both uniformed officers and Army civilians, are a link between Soldiers in the field and the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's subject matter experts.

Strimel facilitated testing of the SQ.410 Translation System, a handheld, rugged, two-way language translation system from a commercial vendor, VoxTec. The device is programmed with nine languages and does not require a cell network or Internet service to operate.

Nineteen Soldiers and Army civilians tested the system July 13-17 at U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza, and feedback was primarily positive.

When a Soldier speaks in English, the device will repeat what it recognizes and display it on the screen. The system then provides written and spoken translations in

the other language. It can also record conversations.

Dr. Stephen LaRocca, computer scientist and team chief of the Multilingual Computing Branch at Research, Development and Engineering Command's (RDECOM) Army Research Laboratory, provided technical expertise during testing.

An important aspect of the research is to collect data for improving the system's ability to recognize the many French accents and dialects in Africa, LaRocca said.

"While commercial speech translation software is available for French, we know that it was trained for general purpose use by European speakers," he said. "How well it works for communication tasks specific to U.S. teams working with African partners is just now being examined.

"From a scientific perspective, we need to know how sensitive the technology is to the different accents

Exchange CEO visits Vicenza store, focuses on employees, Soldiers, families

VICENZA – Army & Air Force Exchange Service leaders are working to ensure that the taste of home the Exchange brings to U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza hits the spot for Soldiers and their families.

Tom Shull, director/CEO, and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Sean Applegate, senior enlisted adviser, visited Vicenza on July 31, addressing how the Exchange can better serve the community, including beefing up its assortment of name-brand merchandise in-store and online.

During their visit, Shull and Applegate toured Exchange facilities, met with Vicenza leadership and talked about how the Exchange can better serve Soldiers and their families, including offering more name-brand merchandise.

"The Exchange works hard to be the first choice for Soldiers at Vicenza," Shull said. "Part of being the first choice means offering top brands shoppers want. Exchange shoppers deserve the best. We've brought Michael Kors, Ellen Tracy and Bose to Vicenza."

The Vicenza Exchange also features a BeFit shop, which includes clothing and shoes from top names such as Under Armour, Nike and Adidas, he said.

Exchange prices on name brands are very competitive, Shull said, and shoppers can find more top brands online at www.shopmyexchange.com.

"The Exchange is increasingly working with a variety of premium brands as it transforms the shopping experience, both in-store and online," he said.

Shoppers do more than save when buying from the Exchange. Money from every purchase goes back to improving quality of life at Vicenza, Applegate said.

"For every dollar earned, historically 67 cents comes back to the military community through

the Morale, Welfare and Recreation dividend," Applegate said. "In 2014, sales at the Vicenza Exchange generated nearly \$533,000 on behalf of MWR programs. Every time shoppers buy from the Exchange, they are making life better for their entire

military community."

Shull is the first civilian to lead the 120-year-old organization, which employs 35,500 civilian associates worldwide. Applegate is one of 36 active-duty service members assigned to the Exchange.

(Article provided by AAFES)



Cindy Brown, Vicenza AAFES store manager, walks with Tom Shull, AAFES director and chief executive officer, during a recent visit here. (Photo by Laura Kreider, USAG Vicenza PAO)

Food safety is AAFES priority

DALLAS – With more than 1,500 direct restaurants and 645 Express retail convenience stores worldwide, the Army & Air Force Exchange service is responsible for oversight of food safety at installations from Kentucky to Kaiserslautern.

In Europe and the Pacific the task goes beyond drive-thrus as seven Exchange-operated bakeries and water plants in Germany, Italy, Japan and Korea support servicemembers and their families.

Like restaurants and convenience stores, these facilities are routinely inspected by regulatory personnel. Health, sanitation and safety inspections are also conducted in compliance with Department of Defense, government and industry practices.

In coordination with U.S. Army Veterinary Service, U.S. Army Preventive Medicine and U.S. Air Force Public Health personnel, the Exchange ensures regulatory food safety and sanitation compliance at 2,100-

plus retail food operations.

"Even as the Exchange introduces new brands and services, food safety remains the top priority and a team effort," said Army Col. Erik Topping, Exchange veterinarian. "From the Exchange food court or Express store associate to the installation and Exchange headquarters public health officials, we all work as one to ensure Exchange food service and retail facilities meet or exceed DoD health and sanitation requirements." *(AAFES)*

Staying SHARP: Program builds on sexual assault prevention momentum

WASHINGTON - Training and outreach efforts, as well as involvement by leaders at all levels, have contributed to a decrease in incidents of sexual assault and harassment in the Army, in addition to upswing in reporting over the last few years.

Now the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program is building on that success by tailoring its program to more effectively deliver results, said Monique Ferrell, SHARP director.

Assaults on males

The percentage of female Soldiers who experienced unwanted sexual contact decreased from 7.1 percent in fiscal year 2012 to 4.6 percent in FY 2014, Ferrell said, citing the biannual Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members.

That's a good trend, she said. What's troubling, however, is that during that same time period, the statistics for males experiencing unwanted sexual contact increased from 0.8 percent to 1.2 percent.

Noting that while 1.2 percent might seem to be small, the proportion of males to females in the Army overall is much greater. Therefore, the raw number of male sexual assault victims is significantly higher than female victims.

"That shocked a lot of people and got our attention," she said. We still have a lot to learn about male victimization in order to build a more effective preventative and treatment model and training. One thing the Army knows for a fact, she added, is there's a "huge" stigma in male reporting.

Ferrell said that understanding the nuances of male victimization and designing a strategy to address this issue is one of her top priorities.

New SHARP Academy

The Army chief of staff has



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey signs the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention poster hanging at the SHARP Resource Center during his visit to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Additionally, Dailey met with Soldiers to talk about the future of the Army and his proposed "Not in My Squad" campaign to bring SHARP into focus for junior noncommissioned officers, who are better positioned to be aware of and handle everyday Soldier issues. (U.S. Army photo)

recently approved an additional skill identifier for sexual assault response coordinators (SARCs) and victim advocates, Ferrell said.

To receive that designator, SARCs and victim advocates must be credentialed by the DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program and the National Advocate Credentialing Program Committee. They are also required to complete SHARP certification training at the new SHARP Academy at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., which was stood up in October 2014, and will be in full operating capability by Oct. 1 this year.

That type of training used to be administered from Ferrell's office, but responsibility for developing programs of instruction and course administration now resides with the SHARP Academy, nested under U.S. Training and Doctrine Command's Combined Arms Center. This transfer of mission allows the SHARP office in the Pentagon to concentrate on program policy, oversight and overall program management.

Line of effort for civilians

A work that's still in process, Ferrell said, is developing a line of effort that's targeted toward Army civilians. This line of effort will include annual SHARP training, policy and outreach.

Army civilian leaders throughout the Army will meet to discuss the content of the civilian line of effort, including details such as whether or not separating training from the uniformed side is desirable.

Retaliation

In fiscal year 2014, the RAND Military Workplace Study showed that 52 percent of DoD females who filed an official report of sexual assault reported some form of retaliation, Ferrell said.

Retaliation could range from ostracism to more serious reprisals, she said. The problem is that there are not common definitions across the military services, so the term "retaliation" is not used consistently. That's

Continued on page 9

Language

Continued from page 6

of the many diverse French-speaking African language communities.”

Further testing in the field is under way to determine how well the current device works with Soldiers from different African countries and regions. The U.S. Army will then be able to better determine what, if any, improvements are needed to the software.

Capt. Scott Saunders, also with USARAF, tested a system at the African Western Accord Exercise in the Netherlands in late July. American Soldiers assigned to the Basic Intelligence Course in the Democratic Republic of Congo will test the translators in September, and Strimel is working to find more exercises.

U.S. Army Africa is working with the U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force to purchase five translators for

additional testing and data collection during coordination meetings and route reconnaissance with African Soldiers. ARL and the vendor could then use the data to better refine the software.

Africa is just a beginning point, Strimel said. U.S. military commanders stationed around the world have shown an increased interest in language translation.

LaRocca said that while more work is needed on the translation system, it has already begun to benefit American and African servicemembers.

“While the FAST/U.S. Army Africa project will not answer all the important questions about adapting language technologies,” he said, “it has already succeeded in advancing discussions of what our Soldiers need to build rapport with their counterparts and to help them communicate across language barriers when human translators are not available.”

SHARP

Continued from page 8

important for a programmatic and training aspect and DoD and the services are working collaboratively to correct it and develop a strategy to prevent and address retaliation.

Ferrell said past efforts to address retaliation have included the expedited transfer program and implementation of the special victim counsel.

Online harassment

Some Soldiers have reported being sexually harassed or retaliated against by other Soldiers in the form of social media, Ferrell said.

The Army is taking steps to deal with this, she said. This month, for example, the Army published All Army Activities message 122/2015, which deals with online conduct, to include sexual harassment, as well as victim retaliation.

The ALARACT, she said, makes it clear that harassment will not be tolerated and isn't consistent with Army values and those who participate will be subject to disciplinary action. Studies have shown that sexual harassment often is a precursor to sexual assault, she added.

Resource center

In FY2014, the Army piloted a SHARP Resource Center concept, modeled after a facility first established at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Fer-

rell said. The center is a one-stop shop where victims can receive help from a range of SHARP providers including advocates, legal and medical.

Since then, 14 centers have opened, the latest in April at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The Army is now developing metrics to capture data to see if the concept should be extended Armywide, she said.

Recent efforts

Command climate surveys are working well, Ferrell said, speaking about a report card Army leaders receive annually as well as within 30 days of taking a command. The surveys indicate how Soldiers feel about leader commitment to fostering an atmosphere of respect and values, she said, and become part of a leader's formal evaluation record.

Ferrell noted that leadership takes sexual assault crimes seriously. Army prosecution rates compare favorably with civilian rates. Commanders prosecuted the offense of rape at a rate of 72 percent while prosecution rates for civilian jurisdictions were about 20 percent over the last three years.

Another new initiative with the potential to make a tremendous difference is the “Not in My Squad” campaign started by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey. That initiative, Farrell said, involves getting first-line supervisors, such as squad leaders, involved with taking ownership of creating an environment of dignity and

respect in their units. It means small-unit leaders discussing issues in formal and informal settings.

Not in My Squad opens the lines of communication, she added. Not just for SHARP, but for other issues like suicide, drugs and alcohol.

This year's theme

This year's DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office's theme, said Ferrell, is “Know Your Part, Do Your Part.” That gets to the role everyone has in eradicating sexual harassment and assault. Early intervention with milder forms of harassment can prevent assault from happening.

Each year, the Army brings in about 100,000 new Soldiers, each with his or her own sets of values.

“We try to inculcate them into the Army values and the Army profession early on, even before they go to (basic training),” she said, with recruiters taking the lead on explaining to them what constitutes acceptable behavior.

“Some messages take hold with some Soldiers quicker than others. Some just don't get it, unfortunately,” she said. “So, we continue to see incidents of sexual harassment and assault. But we've been working very hard at this. What we do know is that the statistics show we're making progress and we're very happy and proud of that.”

Right: Soldiers on the Amazing Quest do some rock-climbing in the Dolomite Mountains in Northern Italy. Life skills Soldiers worked on during this part of the quest include mountain climbing skills, self-esteem, physical fitness, interpersonal communications, and more.

Below: Soldiers who participated in the Amazing Quest worked with soldiers from the Italian Army's 6th Alpini Regiment on top of Mount Piana, on the Austria-Italy border.

(Courtesy photos)



BOSS Soldiers set out on 'amazing' adventure

By **Karin J. Martinez**
USAG Vicenza PAO

VICENZA - When Department of the Army Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers designated the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza BOSS Council to pilot a new initiative, the team took it seriously.

Headquarters BOSS allocated \$10,000 to conduct a "life skill" event for Soldiers, and the local council created the Life Skills Amazing Quest which took place from Aug. 4 through Aug. 10.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel B. Dennison, USAG Vicenza command sergeant major, the idea was born at a brainstorming session.

"We sat down and came up with skills we wanted to focus on here and ideas of how to implement that into some kind of program," Dennison said. "We came up with a concept similar to the Amazing Race."

Life skills, according to Joshua P. Gwinn, chief of Installation Management Command Community Recreation Programs, have been defined by the World Health Organization as "abilities for adaptive and positive

behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life."

These include such skills as problem-solving, critical thinking, self-awareness and interpersonal skills, to name a few.

Vicenza's Amazing Quest targeted seven life skills that are of particular importance to Soldiers stationed here. They included SHARP in Italy, history of Americans in Italy, Rome history, public speaking, moving about in Italy (to include finances, culture and etiquette), and outdoor skills. Nine teams of two enlisted Soldiers per team participated in classes for three days with subject-matter experts, and after that were given backpacks, shirts and a packing list to set off on their quest.

The teams left Vicenza and were bussed to Rome. They were given a certain amount of money and direction and had to make their way from Rome to Camp Darby, then to Pisa, Florence, Brunico, Mount Beri-



co and Del Din. In the various locations, teams were required to conduct health, fitness and historical challenges; at the same time, they worked on the life skills as they had to make their way from place to place.

"This event was about survival in the ultimate terrain," Dennison said. "People were prominent and anything truly could have happened due to the human factor. From financial prudence to orienteering through the Dolomites, from communicating in local tongues to paddling on open water, these Soldiers didn't just learn survival skills for the wilderness but truly for life."



Bicycle Fun & Safety Day



American Red Cross



When: Aug. 19
0900-1200

Where: Villaggio Bus
Parking Lot

Why: To teach
children how
to be safe while
riding their bikes
before the school
year begins.

U.S. Army Child, Youth
& School Services



Speak Out

What are your tips
for newcomers?



Delisa Brown

Department of Defense Schools
(retired)

*"Attend Benvenuti Orientation
Class; go out and travel; and be
involved with base activities."*



Sgt. Jason Hethcoat

839th Transportation Battalion

*"Get out and enjoy the culture, and
learn some of the basics of the lan-
guage to feel more comfortable."*



Steven Brown

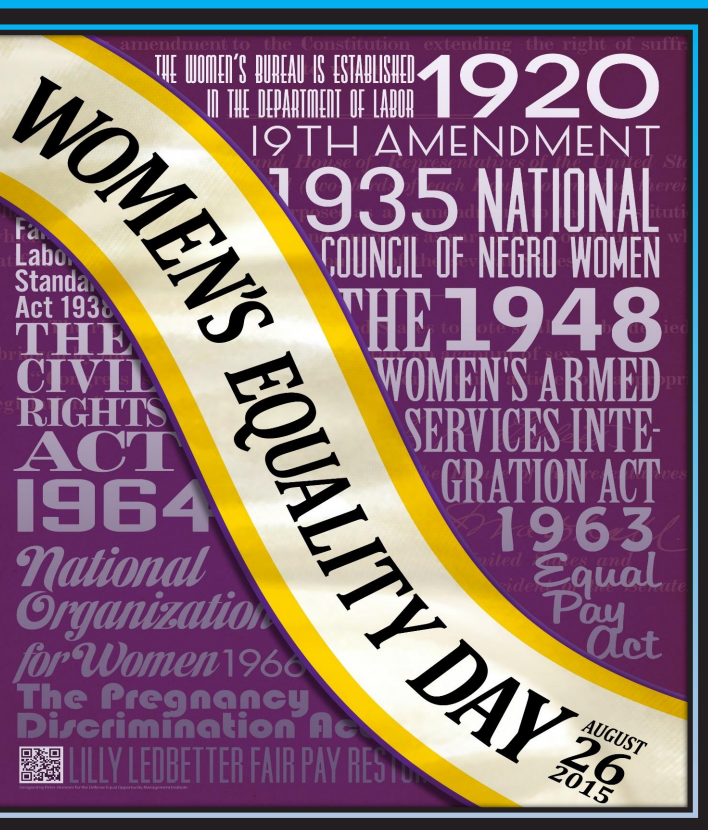
Department of Defense
Education Activity

*"Drive out into Tuscany
every weekend."*

By
Chiara Mattirola

the outlook

11



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY OBSERVANCE
at The Sigholtz Center on Del Din
(located between the parking garages)
on 26 August 2015 at 1530
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

(See story, page 15)

BOSS

"I cannot speak highly enough of Sgt. (Amanda) Donahue and Paul Rosarius [USAG Vicenza BOSS president and recreation specialist, respectively]. They are a remarkable team; from concept to execution, this was totally their plan. Soldiers won't forget this event and experience."

Watch for more information on the Amazing Quest in the next issue of The Outlook and online at our webpage, www.usagvicenza.army.mil.

509th Signal Battalion reaches 4-year milestone

CASERMA DEL DIN - Soldiers and civilians of 509th Signal Battalion were recognized Aug. 6 for another year of being free of alcohol- or drug-related incidents.

For the fourth consecutive year, the unit was presented a streamer by U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Army Substance Abuse Program for their accomplishment.

Sandra Class, ASAP program manager, said this is one of the longest streaks in Europe, and possibly even the U.S. Army.

"This is a great accomplishment and the unit should be proud," she said.

Unit safety officer, Sgt. 1st Class Tedvis Adams, agrees. "Over 1,500 days straight without a DUI or positive urinalysis is absolutely amazing," he said.

During this streak, the 509th has had three battalion commanders and a rotation of more than 100 civilians and 150 Soldiers. Current battalion commander, Lt. Col. Brent O. Skinner, assumed command in June, just as the unit surpassed its fourth year in a row.

"This is a true testament to the emphasis the leaders and super-



Sandra Class (left), manager, Army Substance Abuse Program, attaches a streamer to 509th Signal Battalion's guidon. Helping her is Capt. Lucyana Roldan, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 509th Sig. Bn., and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin M. Eagen, HHD first sergeant, 509th Sig. Bn. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson, 173rd Abn. Bde. PAO)

visors place on safety within the unit and the fact that they want to take care of each other," Skinner said. Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Rowland, battalion command sergeant major, expects the incident free streak to continue long after his tenure is complete.

"The noncommissioned officers and junior leaders stress the importance of doing the right thing and making sure that everyone understands this applies even when off duty," he said.

The incident-free four years can be attributed to the culture of the 509th as much as the individual

Soldiers and civilians, according to one Soldier assigned to the unit.

"No one wants to be THAT GUY or GIRL to break the streak," said Pvt. 1st Class Jonathan Deans. "This is a team effort, and we want to make sure it continues."

Many 509th Soldiers and civilians give credit to their fellow teammates for acting responsibly and using a "battle buddy" while partaking in any adult beverages.

Soldiers say they know to always have a designated driver or take a cab back to their residence, and not take any unnecessary risks by getting behind the wheel when drinking alcohol.

The "Small but Mighty" 509th's mission is to build, operate, and defend network and information technology services across 12 sites spanning seven countries, enabling mission command for units south of the Alps and in Africa, to include U.S. Army Africa and 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

(Story contributed by 509th Sig. Bn.)

Teen Speak Out

What are your tips for teens new to the area?

By Anaya Centers



Xavier James, 15
Sophomore
"Be yourself."



Brandrick Cullors, 15
Sophomore
"Meet new people."



Soldier of the Quarter

Sgt. Maj. James Harris (right), 839th Transportation Battalion, pins an Achievement Medal on Cpl. Benjamin Colson, a military policeman who was selected Aug. 6 as the Darby Military Community Soldier of the Quarter.

"I am very happy; the hard studying this took really paid off," said Colson, who added that his next goal is to be promoted to the rank of sergeant. "My motivation was setting the sample for fellow Soldiers." The board was hosted by 839th.

(Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, DMC Public Affairs)

History and a hike: *Group participates in professional development training at 52 tunnels of Mount Pasubio*

By 1st Lt. Cassandra B. McDonald

173rd Airborne Brigade

MOUNT PASUBIO – Some Soldiers were able to get a taste of Italian history July 20 as they participated in a leadership professional development session here.

Members of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives Dismounted Reconnaissance and Medical platoons from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 54th Brigade Engineer Battalion (Airborne) headed to Mount Pasubio to focus on Stada della 52 Gallerie (52 tunnels), the historic World War I supply route.

Built from February to November 1917, the narrow route is approximately 6,300 meters long with 2,300 meters of the trail going through tunnels. The conditions under which it was built, and the short time it took to build, makes it a masterpiece of military engineering. During WWI, the tunnels played a strategic role on the Italian Front; their location allowed Italians to



With the supervision of medical specialists, Soldiers practiced giving IVs during the LPD at Tunnel 26. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Carey, HHC 54th BEB (A) - CBRNE PSG)

transport supplies and improve communication without being in the Austria-Hungary force's line of fire.

During the session, leaders gave insight to the audience about the Great

War and significance of the tunnels. Platoons later stopped to focus on topics related to their military occupational specialties. The CBRNE RECCE platoon focused on bioterrorism during WWI and the Battle of Mount Pasubio. The medical platoon trained on intravenous fluid therapy and lower limb musculoskeletal injury treatment.

"The opportunity to get out of the office and learn about the incredible history surrounding us was a memorable experience for my Soldiers and me," said Sgt. Bobby Horton, squad leader, CBRNE RECCE platoon. "It's a hidden gem of history. We learned about the history of the battle and got to walk the same paths as the men before us."

Because of on-the-job experience and mentorship from senior leaders, Soldiers gained much knowledge from the day's events. It challenged platoon leadership to research events of the war, leading up to the Italian Front, and tested everyone's physical endurance as they marched up the historic trail.

Need military police assistance?

Call the Vicenza MP desk toll free, anywhere in Italy.

0800-064-077

Mental skills training improves performance

By David Vergun

Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Army researchers have found effective techniques to dramatically improve Soldiers' cognitive and physical abilities through a regimen of mental skills training.

Success of the study led the Army to permanently incorporate cognitive skills training into basic combat training. And, following the research done at Fort Jackson, S.C., that training has since spread Armywide, delivered by trainers from Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, or CSF2.

Much of the study's design was derived from previous research conducted at the Center for Enhanced Performance at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. That center now serves as the core element of CSF2 under the Army Resiliency Directorate, according to Amy B. Adler, a clinical research psychologist at the Center for Military Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, Md.

Adler and others conducted the study and published their findings in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

The Army funded the research, hoping to improve basic combat training performance using mental skills training techniques, Adler said.

"No one has ever done this kind of study using sport psychology techniques before. A lot of these types of studies have been correlational in nature," she said, meaning there wasn't a cause-effect relationship established, and, a lot of the measures of effectiveness outside



Recruits climb Victory Tower during basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Mental skills training has resulted in increased performance on the obstacle course, during rappelling and in other recruit training events. (U.S. Army photo)

the research environment were anecdotal in nature.

By big study, Adler pointed out that 2,432 recruits were randomized by group across 48 platoons. Each group would either be the mental skills training group or the active comparison group. Size and randomization would increase the validity of the experiment and confidence in any significant findings.

Mental skills training was conducted in bite-sized chunks of about 20 minutes each, distributed throughout various field training events such as the obstacle course; rappelling; rifle range; and so on, rather than in just one block of classroom instruction, she said.

Cognitive skills techniques

Coreen Harada, a sport psychology consultant and member of the research team, said six mental skills were used in the study: mental skills foundations, goal setting, energy management, attention control, integrating imagery and building confidence.

Those techniques were aimed at developing the right attitude; cognitive control over physiological functions such as muscles, breathing rate, anxiety levels and so on; focusing attention on the task at hand; organizing efforts into goals; and, utilizing visualization or imagery for task execution, she said.

For example, in rifle marksmanship, goal setting, energy management and at-

tention control, three of the six skills were used, she said. Recruits were trained to control their thoughts and their breathing through practice sessions prior to going to the range. Harada said recruits were told that nervousness before an event is normal and could even be used to their advantage.

For instance, rapid heart rate means the heart is pumping vital nutrients to the brain and the body so that's a good thing, she said. By focusing on breathing control and visualizing and mentally rehearsing technique before the event, performance would improve.

The first of the six skills, which is mental skills foundations, would always be the first taught, Harada said, because it is critical to all of the other skills. Confidence building tasks consisted of positive self-talk, she said, rather than engaging in self-criticism that depresses, distracts and de-energizes.

Armywide implementation

Harada said Soldiers, families and Army civilians Armywide are also now getting mental skills training through CSF2, delivered in a variety of ways.

Master resilience trainers also provide some of the training in their own venues, she added.

Vicenza plays host to U.S. Ambassador at Women's Equality Day observance

By **Karin J. Martinez**
USAG Vicenza PAO

VICENZA - Ninety-five years have gone by since the passing of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote alongside men in the United States after a decades-long fight. In an effort to mark the momentous occasion, a joint resolution of Congress in 1971 designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day, to be proclaimed by each U. S. President each year since then.

As the day approaches for 2015, everyone in the Vicenza Military Community is invited to an observance 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Sigholtz Center on Del Din. The observance will feature guest speaker Ambassador Colleen Bell, who serves as the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary.

Bell was appointed by President Barack Obama confirmed by the Senate in December 2014 to serve as the United States Ambassador to Hungary. She began her work in Hungary on Jan. 21.

According to her biography, before diplomatic service, Bell was a leading business executive. She worked at an award-winning production company responsible for some of the most-watched television programming in the world, reaching more than 40 million people in more than 100 countries across five continents. While a producer at Bell-Phillip Television Productions in Los Angeles, Bell's work frequently earned the field's most prestigious recognition for creative content, social awareness



BELL

marginalized populations in the United States and abroad.

In addition to her long career in international business and the arts, Bell is a dedicated philanthropist and an industry-leading advocate committed to tackling some of the United States' most vexing domestic and global public policy challenges. Her public service and successful record of strategic and organization planning have led to the implementation of critical initiatives in natural-resource protection, child-abuse prevention, crime victim counseling and care, public-health awareness, and art accessibility.

Before assuming the role leading Embassy Budapest, Bell served on the boards of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, UCLA Medical Center's Rape Treatment Center Foundation, the Children's Institute, Inc., and the Natural Resource Defense Council's Los Angeles and Global Leadership Councils.

Bell is a graduate of Sweet Briar College. She is married to writer/producer Bradley Bell, with whom she has four children.

The public is encouraged to attend the event on Del Din and hear the ambassador speak.

and public health education.

Bell's artistic vision has been recognized for its pioneering impact on the lives of a wide array of

Pian di Novello honors heroes

By **Chiara Mattirola**
DMC Public Affairs

PIAN DI NOVELLO - A memorial service to those who fought and lost their lives at Pian di Novello, Pistoia Mountain was held July 27, attended by local partisans and representatives of the United States Army.

The tiny village is located on the extreme defensive line of the World War II-era German Gothic Line and area of operations of partisans of the National Liberation Army - Military Zone XI Patriots joined by 5th Armored Division of the U.S. Army.

Due to the proximity of Camp Darby to the battle site, there has always been a close relationship between the mountain community and the military installation. As a sign of respect and thankfulness for fighting as allies and helping to liberate Italy during WWII the mountain communities of Abetone and Pian di Novello have been donating the Christmas tree that adorns Camp Darby every year.

At the service, a memorial stone shows the Italian and American flags as a frame for an image of "Pippo," commander of the Patriots.

Cutigliano Mayor Tommaso Braccesi underlined the importance of maintaining the memory of the past battles and to learn from experience.

"It is our responsibility to keep the memory alive so younger generations will learn about and respect their ancestor's battles for freedom," said Braccesi. "This year is even more important because it marks the milestone of 70 years from the liberation on Italy, and these mountains were witness to numerous battles."

Continued on page 17

Become a patroller with Vicenza Ski Patrol!



Do you like snowboarding or skiing?
Want to improve your snowboarding or skiing skills?
Does emergency medical training interest you?
YES? Then become a ski patroller.
Check out www.nsp.org or email
VicenzaSkiPatrol@gmail.com.

Retired general recalls 1981 terrorist kidnapping, shares insights with audience at Caserma Ederle

By **Anaya Centers**
Summer Hire Employee/PAO

VICENZA – A general kidnapped on Dec. 17, 1981 and rescued 42 days later visited Caserma Ederle as a guest speaker for Antiterrorism Month.

Retired Maj. Gen. James Dozier, the victim of the abduction, spoke to a full audience at the post theater to share his story and lessons learned from the experience.

The kidnapping

Dozier's kidnapping took place when he lived in Verona and served as the chief of staff at NATO's southern European land forces. On that fateful day, he explained, two members of the militant left-wing organization, the Red Brigades, rang the doorbell posing as plumbers. The two claimed there was a leak in the apartment below and said they needed to see if it was coming from Dozier's apartment.

Dozier opened the door to let them inside his home since what their story sounded reasonable. The "plumbers" checked for leaks and soon after began speaking Italian words that Dozier couldn't comprehend. When Dozier led them to the kitchen to get his Italian dictionary, the men blocked the nearest doorway, and Dozier and his wife were attacked from behind.

According to Dozier, the kidnappers managed to get him in the trunk of a rented van by jabbing his head with the butt of a gun, gagging him, and placing him into a box which looked like it was meant to hold a small fridge. While his wife lay chained and gagged in their laundry room, he was then driven until they'd made it to a certain check point in which the rented van was abandoned. At that point he was moved into a Fiat van and driven to Padova.

Daily life for 42 days

When the final destination was reached Dozier was taken out of the trunk and brought to the apartment, where he was kept during the entire ordeal. He was kept under a tent and chained to his bed.

Occasionally, guards would change the light bulb

under the tent from blue to white in order to disorient Dozier's track of time. They also made him listen to loud rock music continuously through headphones to keep him from hearing conversations around him. When he was finally rescued his hair had a large impression from the headphones.

Rescue

Dozier said he was treated to three meals a day and his request for classical music was eventually granted, although it was still extremely loud. He even received reading material, such as newspapers and the book 1984 by George Orwell. He was rescued by a 10-man SWAT team on Jan. 25, 1982. He was now a bit thinner and had facial hair, but was in safe hands.

"The support that was provided by the U.S. military and the Italian police was undeniable," said Dozier, who tries to get together every year with his rescuers.

Lessons learned

Dozier said his experience taught him four major things: it's important to have an extended family, everyone has an inner strength, prayer and support to and from others is important, and everything happens for a reason.

"All of us have an inner strength that we may not know we have," he said, adding that his military family helped his family get through that tough time.

Today, of the group involved in the kidnapping one member remains in jail, one became a doctor, one died, and the leader Antonio Savasta remains in a psychiatric ward.

Antiterrorism Officer for U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza, Jesse D. Markum, said he was honored to have Dozier share his story and participate in antiterrorism training with Soldiers at Caserma Ederle.

"Even though this incident happened over 35 years ago, the lessons are as applicable as they were then as they are now. We are extremely thankful that General Dozier was here to assist us in enhancing awareness throughout the community as part of the Army's AT Awareness Month."

Antiterrorism knowledge and community awareness

The Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal provides substantial information, resources, and tools for those responsible for planning and implementing antiterrorism programs and plans including community awareness. The ATEP website resides on the Army Policing Portal. Go to <https://army.deps.mil/army/sites/PMG/OPMG/OPS/antiterror/>

[ATEP/default.aspx](#), and select your email certificate to gain access to a SharePoint portal.

Antiterrorism knowledge is important because terrorism is an enduring, worldwide threat to Army communities. Extremist beliefs continue to have an anti-western and anti-U.S. orientation. (*Compiled from Army AT literature*)

Spouses enjoy Korean traditions in Italy



Camp Darby PWOC members take part in a Korean cooking class held Aug. 4 at the Post Chapel.

Story and photo
by **Chiara Mattiolo**
DMC Public Affairs

CAMP DARBY -- Jeewon Hur was happy to share her expertise in Korean cooking Aug. 4 with Camp Darby's Protestant Women of the Chapel.

"The PWOC wanted to know more about Korean food, so we decided to meet and cook together and, of course, share the meal we prepared," said Hur.

Some of the ingredients are not easy to find, Hur said, so for the occasion she bought some of them in Germany. Others were even sent straight from her mother in Korea.

PWOC members helped Hur by chopping the ingredients and cooking -- diligently following her expert instructions.

"This is my one chance to get a class like this and to taste incredible Korean cuisine," said Sarah Ranspott, PWOC member.

"It is also nice to spend time with the ladies."

Hur said she feels good about teaching this class since she made everybody happy.

"I think this is just another way to share traditions; this is what my mom cooked for us almost daily and I really enjoy sharing my knowledge," she said.

Pian di Novello

Continued from page 15

The U.S. Army was represented by Col. Phillip Cuccia from the U.S. Embassy to Italy, and Master Sgt. Robert Halstead, senior enlisted advisor, Camp Darby Military Community.

"It is an honor to be here and represent the United States honoring the memory of the fallen and (confirming) a long-lasting friendship between our nations," said Cuccia.

After the ceremony, the authorities and special guests were invited to a lunch in a local restaurant to share food traditions of the area.

"This food we are sharing today comes straight from our mountains and it is prepared locally; it is our pleasure to share food and traditions with our American friends," said Braccesi.

Teen Speak Out

What are your tips for teens new to the area?

By Anaya Centers



Nate Jackson, 16

Junior

"Learn a little bit about the town."



Kelsie Martin, 16

Sophomore

"Get to know people, don't sit around, and explore."



Peter Toves, 16

Junior

"Don't be afraid to meet new people because we're all friendly."

Summer reading program ends with party



Vicenza Military Community members celebrated the end of the "Read to the Rhythm" summer reading program with a party at the post library July 28. The event included activities such as creating guitar book marks, games and a cake cutting. Also, Angel Dogs of Vicenza brought two therapy dogs, Nora and Margo, and participants learned about dog safety and had the opportunity to get to brush, walk and feed the dogs.

More than 270 children ages 3-18 registered for the program. Those who completed the program by reading 10 books received a certificate. Big winners were Payton McLean who read 228 books and Samantha Barnes for the teen age group who read 202 books this summer.

Mark your calendar for upcoming library events:

Aug. 26 at 11 a.m.: Children's clothing swap

Sept. 2 at 3:30 p.m.: Back to school backpacks

(Courtesy photos)

Free! Sure Start Preschool

Free full day, high quality preschool program at Vicenza Elementary School.
Children must be 4 years old by September 1st.

Priority is given to children of sponsors ranking E4 and below, but *all* are welcome to apply.

Head to the elementary school and fill out an application today!



Children learn, have fun at Vacation Bible School



Children and volunteers enjoy a fun day at Vacation Bible School held at the Vicenza Elementary/Middle School multipurpose room July 28. More than 130 children participated in the five-day event.



divided in 12 groups called "Tribes." They enjoyed the five-day experience that included creating crafts, learning songs, interacting with other participants to learning about life during Moses' time.

"I think the children had a wonderful time," said Dales. "This year, I had two children attending and they were excited each morning to return. All of the children who came to our 'Sandal Tent' were enthusiastic and ready to share their feelings about the Lord."

Dales' nine-year-old daughter Samantha participated in the event and said she had a great time.

"It is so much better than I expected. I thought it would be classes, but it is just fun."

"I am honored to have shared in this experience. Of all the VBS's that I have ever participated in, this is by far the best organized and definitely the most fun. I feel so moved by all the love being shared and the excitement for learning about our Lord," Dales added.

At the end of each day, all participants and volunteers gathered at the VES multipurpose room for the Grand Finale.

"My favorite part of the day is singing and dancing," said five-year-old Alan Brook, who was at his first Vacation Bible School experience.

"I met many friends and every day it was fun. I'll be back next year," he said at the end of the final day.

According to USAG Vicenza Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Shelton, this year's Vacation Bible School may only be described as a complete success.

"The success of any outstanding event is due to everyone working together to make a program flow and function well," said Shelton. "This comes from determination and dedication to a program that involves more than 200 people for five consecutive days. There is, however, always one person who takes the role of director and helps publish the vision of a program. Linda Davis is one such person."

Shelton added that Davis also had assistance from all the volunteers.

"We couldn't complete an extensive program as VBS is without our Vicenza Military Community volunteers."

Story and photos by **Laura Kreider**
USAG Vicenza PAO

More than 130 youngsters escaped to the wilderness July 27-31 for Vacation Bible School.

The annual event took place at the Vicenza Elementary and Middle School with about 90 volunteers that included parents, teens and nine Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade. This year's theme was "Wilderness Escape."

There was a great turnout this year, said Linda Davis, VBS director.

"We were expecting fewer children because of summer vacation, but they came and almost all of them stayed for the whole week's program," Davis said.

The planning of VBS goes back to springtime, when the first meetings and recruiting volunteers took place, according to Davis.

When the time came, volunteers were ready to work.

"For my part, I went to a couple of meetings and then spent an hour each evening reading over the next day's events to prepare for our tent," explained Amy Dales one VBS volunteer.

The children, from five to 11 years old, were

Travel Benedictine abbey reflects simplicity, serenity



Left: Clock tower. Right: Frescoes from several Italian artists can be seen throughout Praglia Abbey. Some date back to 15th century. (Photos by Karin J. Martinez) Below: A monk from Praglia Abbey works in the vineyard. (Courtesy photo)

By **Karin J. Martinez**
USAG Vicenza PAO

Heading into the Euganean Hills of the Veneto region, one might find a charming restaurant, a winery or a quiet bicycle path.

About 12 kilometers from Padova and four kilometers from Abano Terme, set in the town of Teolo, is another breathtaking find: Abbazia di Praglia, or the Praglia Abbey. The abbey is a Benedictine monastery that dates back to the late 11th century. Visitors are welcome to take a tour, attend mass, sit and reflect, peruse the gift shop for

a memento — or all of the above.

According to literature distributed on site, the monastery dates to 1080 but was destroyed and rebuilt several times in the 15th and 16th centuries. Only the bell tower remains as the original medieval structure on the property. The abbey is a remarkable work of art with its late Gothic and early Renaissance styles, but is considered first and foremost “a house of God.”

The property is home to “a community of men who share the search of God in the path traced by the rule of Saint Benedict,” according to the website, www.praglia.it. The long history of the community includes suppression by Napoleon’s military occupation in 1810 and the House of Savoy in 1867.

Today, there are about 45 Benedictine monks in the abbey

that also houses the National Library. The monks are known for expert book restoration skills, and they cultivate plants to make cosmetics, herbs and wine — not to mention the beehives they keep to make honey products.

Coming from Caserma Ederle, the easiest way to get to the abbey is probably via the A4 (autostrade) Milano-Venezia. Get off at the Grisignano exit, and proceed toward Montegalda, Cervarese and



Montemerlo. If you have a GPS, submit the address via Abbazia di Praglia, 16 – 35037 Teolo, and it should take you directly to the winding road that leads past the vineyard and to the parking lot. Parking is free, and it's an easy walk to where the tour awaits.

Tours are provided with a donation to the monastery, which assists with property maintenance. Pick up a brochure in your preferred language -- Italian, German, French or English -- and deposit your donation into the box. Wait in the lobby and a tour guide will come to pick up those gathered there when it's time for the next tour. Hours for tours are as follows:

Summertime

Weekdays-- 3:30, 4:10, 4:50 and 5:30 p.m.; Sundays and holidays-- 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5 and 5:30 p.m.

Wintertime

Weekdays—2:30, 3:10, 3:50 and 4:30 p.m.; Sundays and holidays –2:30, 3, 3:30, 4 and 4:30 p.m.

Closed every Monday and certain religious holidays (check the website)

The 40-minute tour begins in the rustic cloister and moves to the vaulted cloister, botanical cloister, monumental refectory, chapter room and 17th century Loggetta Belvedere, a loggia where visitors can admire the landscape and the monastery's rural area that showcases the vineyard, garden and orchard. Be warned, however: tours are only available in Italian. It is still worth it, though, as walking through with the group is the only way you are allowed inside. Read about the abbey ahead of time and follow along with your brochure; you'll still enjoy yourself and have the opportunity to take some beautiful photographs for your photo album or scrapbook.

After the tour, don't forget to linger in the gift shop where you will find products made by the monks such as balsamic or acacia honey, honey candy, hand cream, foot cream, soap, various types of tea, and several selections of red and white wines. On the grounds is also a church, the Basilica dell' Assunta, dedicated to Our Lady of

the Assumption. The foundation dates back to 1490, and ancient frescoes and other artistry adorn the inside.

For those who want more than a day trip and are in need of a spiritual retreat, the monastery welcomes people who "intend to spend a period of prayer and meditation with the monastic community," according to the website. The chance to take part of the monastic life in that manner is available with coordination. For more information, email foresteria@praglia.it or call +39 049 999 9300 or +39 049 999 9322.

Sunday Eucharist times are 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. for the monastic mass; and 5 p.m.

So head for the hills, find the abbey and slow down for a morning or an afternoon. This is one excursion that doesn't need to be rushed, and you may just find yourself in a beautiful state of relaxation as you leave to forage dinner at a local pizzeria.

Praglia Abbey is just one of several medieval abbeys to visit in Padova area. To learn about others, go to www.padovamedievale.it.



(Above) Situated on the second floor is the vaulted cloister (circa 1490), which functions as the central point of the entire monastic complex and connects the various areas of the community's life. Left: Once used to cultivate herbs for the pharmacy, the botanical cloister (circa 1480) now features an Italian-style garden. (Photos by Karin J. Martinez)



Family and

Vicenza Military Community



Music Café 5/50- 5 Years/50 Sessions

BOSS joins Soldiers' Theatre in celebrating the 5th year and 50th Music Café with a special Saturday afternoon event on August 22, that includes bands, food and refreshments all afternoon. Following the band performances, join in a special casual improv jam night on the Soldiers' Theatre stage. Music for music lovers by music lovers. Great music and amazing community talent await at this special Music Café. It's free and performers can sign up at Soldiers' Theatre.

Family Child Care (FCC) Recruitment

Register to become a Family Child Care (FCC) provider! You will:

- Earn an income while staying at home with your children
- Set your own program hours to balance the needs of your Family and child care business
- Have access to free portable training by professional staff
- Receive supplies and equipment to help you get started
- Make a difference in the lives of children and Families

For more details, call the FCC Director at 634-7615.

Design Your Own Class

The Vicenza Arts & Crafts Center provides a full range of creative options and professional equipment in do-it-yourself studios for woodwork, pottery, framing and a large multi-craft classroom. Private classes are available with a minimum of just six people (perfect for Homeschool Art, Mom's Club, Girl and Boy Scouts earning badges, Family Readiness Groups, Ladies Night Out, Birthday Parties and Groups of Family and friends).

Tell us what you're interested in and we'll do the rest. Call the Arts & Crafts Center at 634-7074 for more info.

Financial Assistance

The Financial Readiness Program (FRP) combines consumer affairs and financial counseling with emergency financial assistance for Active Duty and retired military, their eligible Family members, Department of the Army civilians, active duty Reserve Component Soldiers, and Survivors with their financial affairs. Contact the Financial Readiness Manager at 634-8634.

Volunteer Coaching

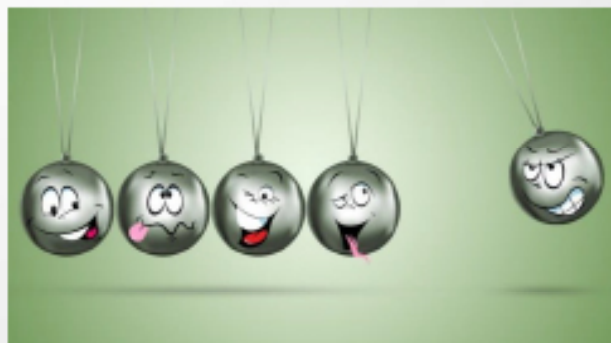
Did you play sports in High School or College? Have you always wanted to coach Football, Soccer or Basketball? Are you a Cheerleader at heart? Even if you have never played or coached a sport before, you can still become a certified volunteer coach! For more info, contact CYSS Sports and Fitness at 637-7162.

Group Fitness Classes

Sports and Fitness will get you started off on the right foot with popular classes such as Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo, Kickboxing, Zumba®, Cycle and many, many more! For a complete list of classes, visit vicenza.armyMWR.com

Auditions for "Perpetual Laughter"

On August 24, Soldiers' Theatre will hold auditions for "Perpetual Laughter", a series of short, hysterically funny comedies to be performed September 25-October 4. They are looking for a large cast and no experience is necessary. Limited rehearsal time and maximum fun is guaranteed. Auditions consists of cold readings from the scripts and you should wear comfortable clothes and footwear. This is your chance to get involved at Soldiers' Theatre with limited rehearsals. Call 634- 7281.



Register using MWR Online Services for:

Vicenza Trip & Classes

Vicenza CYSS Activities

Vicenza Facebook Page



Darby Military Community



Kennel & Pet Services

The Darby Kennel can take care of your pet while you enjoy Italy! The Kennel offers a variety of packages for your pet's comfort. Reservations can be made at least two working days prior to your drop-off date. For details, call Outdoor Recreation at 633-7775 or visit our website.

Children's Story Hour

Story time begins again on September 1. Designed for children aged 3-7 years, meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Children's Room of the library. Come join us for activities. Establish with your children the reading habit of a lifetime and enjoyment of books.

Host Nation Orientation

New to Darby? Host Nation Orientation is an exciting opportunity to learn about the Darby Military Community and Italian culture. To find the next scheduled 4-day class, visit darby.armyMWR.com

Darby BOSS Kickball Tournament & BBQ

Do you remember the days in gym class on the diamond as the pitcher rolled the bright red rubber ball and the only thought in your mind was ensuring it flew over the fence? The BOSS Program would like to take a step back to the playground days of sports and host a Community Kickball Tournament and BBQ on August 21. By promoting physical activity, we hope to boost morale and promote esprit de corps for every Single Service and Community member stationed in the Darby Military Community. Registration is open until August 17. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

Save Money with Tax Relief Office (TRO)

Save money on utilities such as city gas, liquid petroleum gas (GPL) and on certain large purchases and vehicle repairs (VAT tax). For more info, contact Tax Relief Office at 633-7549 or visit darby.armyMWR.com

American Breakfast at the DCC

Start your morning with American Breakfast at the Darby Community Club available Monday-Friday, 7-10 a.m. Take out is available on request.

Learn New Skills at Army Europe Libraries

Visit library.eur.army.mil and:

- Learn a new language with Mango Languages or print books and CD programs
- Take your computer skills to the next level with Safari eBooks from major IT publishers
- Find the next great book to read with our What Do I Read Next? And NovelList databases

Darby BOSS Monthly Meeting

Join the Darby Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers (BOSS) program for our bimonthly meeting on August 19. Meetings take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month in the Library Conference Room.

This is a great forum to learn about; recreation and leisure activities, community service projects and volunteer opportunities. BOSS meetings will keep you informed to return to your unit and spread the word. Don't miss out!



Register using MWR Online Services for:

Darby Trip & Classes Darby CYSS Activities



Darby Facebook Page

Community news briefs

New NCOER training

USARAF G1 is conducting training on the new NCOER to ensure all personnel within the community are trained before the Jan. 1, 2016, start date. Training will take place at the Caserma Ederle Post Theater and is available for all noncommissioned officers, raters and senior raters (military and civilian). A session will take place Aug. 14. All sessions will cover the same material and are from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information call DSN 634-8154 or e-mail: bryan.l.novak.mil@mail.mil.

Finance office hours change

The Finance Office, Building 28, will be closed Friday, Aug. 14, all day. The office will be open Aug. 26 and Aug. 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. only. There will be no afternoon hours those days. Emergency cases will be handled at the Central Processing Facility Finance Office when the Bldg. 28 office is not available.

Center offers class

The Vicenza Education Center is offering a Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) class to help improve GT scores Aug. 17 to Sept. 9 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. To sign up, see the education counselors in Ederle Bldg. 126 or Del Din Bldg. 2.

College fall registration

Fall registration is here at University of Maryland University College and Central Texas College. In-classroom classes begin Aug. 17. Both academic and financial aid counseling are available in Bldg. 126, or by calling UMUC at DSN 634-8927, comm. 0444 71 8927, or CTC College at DSN 634-8037, comm. 0444 71 6514.

College seeks EMT instructor

Central Texas College is looking for an EMT-qualified instructor to teach in the Vicenza area. If interested, call Jo-Anne Combs, Vicenza site coordinator, at DSN 637-8145 or commercial, 0444-618145. Qualified, interested persons may also send an email to Vicenza@europe.ctcd.edu.

Teenvenuti workshop, tour

If you are new to the Vicenza Military Community and in grades 6-12, you can sign up for the Teenvenuti Workshop and Tour. This student-led, adult-supervised event will help you get used to your new home. The next Teenvenuti is Aug. 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call DSN 634-5998 or comm. 0444-71-5998 for more information.

Summer fun, summer swim

The Vicenza Mako Sharks are sponsoring swim classes at the Caserma Ederle Post Pool, Tuesday-Friday, through Aug. 21. Advanced class 8-9:15 a.m. and Beginner/Intermediate class 9:30-10:30 a.m. For more info, e-mail makosharkscoach@gmail.com or makosharkspresident@gmail.com.

"Perpetual Laughter" auditions

Make plans for the first show of the Soldiers' Theatre 2015-2016 season: "Perpetual Laughter" is a production of short comedies where laughter is the prime ingredient. A delicious mix of the absurd and the mundane with a twist of joy, this play is just pure fun. Each short comedy explores a slice of life and includes stories that are as much fun for the actors as they are for the audience. No experience is necessary. Auditions are Aug. 24. Performances will be Sept. 25-Oct. 4.

414th customer contract training

The 414th Combat Support Brigade is providing quarterly acquisition planning and requirement documents development training for new personnel and to recertify Contract Office Representative and Government Purchase Card cardholders. Classes take place on the following schedule: Aug. 18, COR with Ethics/CPARS at the digital training facility, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Aug. 19 Acquisition Planning/Requirements at the Hall of Heroes, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Aug. 20, GPC with Ethics at the Hall of Heroes, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Military must go to the Central Processing Facility to register their CAC card before training, and local nationals must sign up for the class on the portal at least two weeks prior to ensure computer access. The event is open to all U.S. Army Africa, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza, and tenant unit personnel.

For more information and to sign up, go to <https://portal.usaraf.army.mil/staff/tenants/CSB/Pages/Training.aspx>. Anyone with questions should contact Master Sgt. Muriel Yealu at muriel.yealu.mil@mail.mil.

Learn to make Italian sauces

Local favorite "Cooking with Lucas" is guest instructor at the Arts and Crafts Center Aug. 25, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Learn why there are so many different shapes of pastas and how each pasta goes with a different sauce. Find out more about the regional and cultural differences of pastas and how pesto varies in different Italian regions. Participants will make six traditional sauces: traditional Genovese; mint and tomato; eggplant; ricotta and walnuts; cilantro and coconut; and capers and olives pesto. Cost is \$55. Register at the Arts and Crafts Center or online with WebTrac. No experience is needed, and all supplies are included.

Women's Equality Day

Vicenza Military Community is invited to celebrate Women's Equality Day at the Sigholtz Center on Del Din, Aug. 26, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Ambassador to Hungary, Colleen Bell. (See page 15 for more information.) The observance commemorates American women achieving full voting rights under the U.S. Constitution by passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

USAG change of command

Mark your calendars for Aug. 28, when U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza will be holding a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. on Hoekstra Field. A reception will follow at 10 a.m. The community will bid farewell to Col. Robert L. Menist Jr. and welcome new Garrison Commander Col. Steven M. Marks.

Passport delays

The Department of State has put out an advisory that, due to a systems-related problem, there is a substantial backlog in passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad production at passport agencies in the United States. Priority is being given to resolving this problem but a delay of six to 10 weeks processing time is expected. They regret the inconvenience and will post any developments.

Dining facility hours

The South of the Alps Dining facility at Caserma Ederle will be closed until Sept. 30. Meals will be provided at the Caserma Del Din DFAC for Soldiers who receive subsistence in kind while the South of the Alps DFAC is closed. For more information, call DSN 634-6893

or comm. 0444-71-6893.

Save date for Fall Bazaar

Don't worry about the hassles of parking downtown when doing holiday shopping—Vicenza Family and MWR will bring holiday shopping to you! Vendors from Sicily to Belgium are coming to Caserma Ederle Oct. 2 at Building 311, the Golden Lion Conference Center, 4-8 p.m. Shop among the many international vendors selling everything you need for the upcoming holiday season. Some things visitors will find are cheese, purses, wine, jewelry, chocolates and art. Save the date!

Medical Benvenuti

Learn more about health care in Italy each Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Central Processing Facility, Room 2.

Also, the Vicenza Health Clinic is holding an information brief for beneficiaries in the Health Center second floor training classroom Oct. 15, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Registration is required, call DSN 637-9761 or comm. 0444-61-9761.

Emergency Operations number

The emergency number for work orders, alarm systems and other after-hours questions is now 0444-61-8035.

Automotive Service Excellence Certification

The Vicenza Education Center National Testing Center has added the Automotive Service Excellence Certification Exams to a lineup of electronically delivered testing programs. For more information, contact 634-7055.

Your announcement here

If you have an event you'd like to announce to the community, send an email to usarmy.vmc.pao@mail with a paragraph about what is going on, when it is and who to contact.

Maternal health education

The Vicenza Health Center is offering classes for expectant parents every Wednesday morning and afternoon. Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. is "Pregnancy thru Postpartum." From 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. a variety of classes will be offered. The first week of the month will be "Having a Baby in Italy" OB Orientation. The second through fourth week is a three-week series on childbirth. No formal signup is required, and all

expectant parents are welcome at any time. Classes are in the Health Center training classroom on the 2nd floor of the Health Center. For more information, call DSN 636-9508 or comm. 0444-61-9508.

USO operating hours

The USO is located in Building 9A (between 3rd and 4th street) and offers free food, drinks, movies, activities, Internet and phones to call the United States. Hours are: Mondays closed; Tuesday-Thursday 1-8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 1-9 p.m.; Sundays 3-8 p.m. For more information, call 0444-71-7156. Anyone can "like" the Vicenza USO on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vicenzauso.

Volunteer opportunities

Exceptional Family Member Program—Volunteer coordinator, athletic volunteer coordinator, administration and activities support, teen volunteer. For more information email leigh.a.strain2.civ@mail.mil.

At the movies



THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.

This action comedy spy film directed by Guy Ritchie is based on the 1964 TV series of the same name. Set against the backdrop of the early 1960s period of the Cold War, The Man from U.N.C.L.E. centers on United Network Command for Law and Enforcement agents Napoleon Solo and Illya Kuryakin. The two team up on a joint mission to stop a mysterious international criminal organization led by Victoria Vinciguerra, which is bent on destabilizing the fragile balance of power through the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology.

Admission: 3D first run (*), adult, \$8, under 12, \$5.25; 3D second run, adult \$7.50, under 12, \$5; first run (*), adult, \$6, under 12, \$3.25; second run, adult \$5.50, under 12, \$3. **Starting May 1:** 3D first run (*), adult, \$8.50, under 12, \$5.75; 3D second run, adult \$8, under 12, \$5.50; first run (*), adult, \$6.50, under 12, \$3.75; second run, adult \$6, under 12, \$3.50.

Advance tickets: On sale Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the PX Food Court entrance, except on federal holidays. Up to 50 percent of seats will be on sale; the remainder go on sale one hour before show time at the theater box office.

Film ratings and reviews are available at www.imdb.com

Ederle Theater

Aug. 14	7 p.m.	Mission Impossible (PG-13)
	10 p.m.	The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (PG-13)
Aug. 15	3 p.m.	The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (PG-13)
	6 p.m.	Mission: Impossible (PG-13)
Aug. 16	3 p.m.	The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (PG-13)
	6 p.m.	Straight Outta Compton (R)
Aug. 19	11 a.m.	Magic Mike (XX))
	7 p.m.	Trainwreck (R)
Aug. 20	7 p.m.	Vacation (R)
Aug. 21	7 p.m.	Hitman: Agent 47 (R)
	10 p.m.	Straight Outta Compton (R)
Aug. 22	3 p.m.	Pixels (PG-13)
	6 p.m.	Hitman: Agent 47 (R)
Aug. 23	3 p.m.	Minions (PG)
	6 p.m.	Hitman: Agent 47 (R)
Aug. 26	11 a.m.	Vacation (R)
	7 p.m.	Mission: Impossible (PG-13)
Aug. 27	7 p.m.	Fantastic Four (PG-13)

Chapel activities

Vicenza

Sunday Services

9 a.m.: Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation following Mass or during duty hours

11 a.m.: Protestant worship

1:30 p.m.: Gospel service

5 p.m.: Contemporary Christian service

Tuesday

9 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

6 p.m.: PMOC and PWOC Bible study. Dinner provided; no watch care

Thursday

9:30 a.m.: St. Mark's Catholic Women

7:15 p.m.: Gospel service Bible study

Camp Darby

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m.: Protestant worship and children's service

Catholic Mass: Call the Chapel at 633-7267 to confirm times.

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.: Protestant Women of the Chapel

For DMC activities call 633-7267

Chaplain Crisis Line

To reach a Chaplain after duty hours, call **634-KARE (634-5273)**

The Outlook Religious Activities

page provides announcements and may offer perspectives to enhance spiritual or religious resiliency in support of Army Comprehensive Fitness programs. Comments regarding specific beliefs, practices or behaviors are strictly those of the author and do not convey endorsement by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Army, Installation Management Command or the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza.

VMC faith group contacts

Bahá'í Faith: Call 348-603-2283.

Church of Christ: Call at 388-253-9749 or 324-623-7921 or send email: vicenzaitalychurchofchrist@gmail.com

Jewish: Call 634-7519, 0444-71-7519 or 327-856-2191.

Latter Day Saints: Young Men/Young Women meeting is every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Spiritual Fitness Center. Sunday services, 9:30 a.m. in Vicenza. Call 634-7897, 380-431-7633 or email: lescall@gmail.com.

Muslim: Call 634-7519 or 0444-71-7519.

Trinity Church Vicenza: An International Presbyterian Church congregation. Call 328-473-2949 or email: trinitychurchvicenza@gmail.com.

Vicenza Hospitality House: A good place for anyone — single Soldiers, men, women and couples — to enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

Friday: Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. with Walk in the Word following. Call 0444-581-427 for more information or if you need transportation.

MUSIC ACTIVITIES AT THE CHAPEL

Tuesday, 5 p.m.: Contemporary Praise band practice

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.: Catholic choir practice

Wednesday, 6:45 p.m.: Gospel choir practice

Thursday, 5:30 p.m.: Gospel choir rehearsal



ARMY FAMILY
ACTION PLAN



SOLDIER
FAMILY
CIVILIAN

Army Family Action Plan

We're recruiting delegates and staff for the 2015 Vicenza AFAP Conference

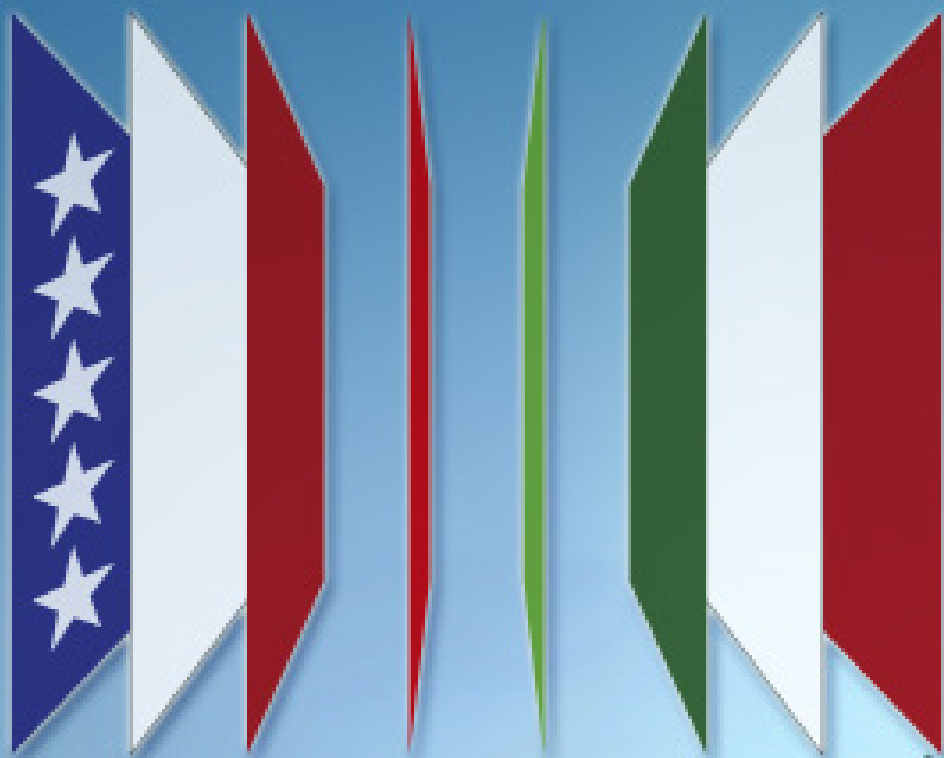
- Hourly childcare is paid for participants
- Snacks and lunch are provided



Interested?

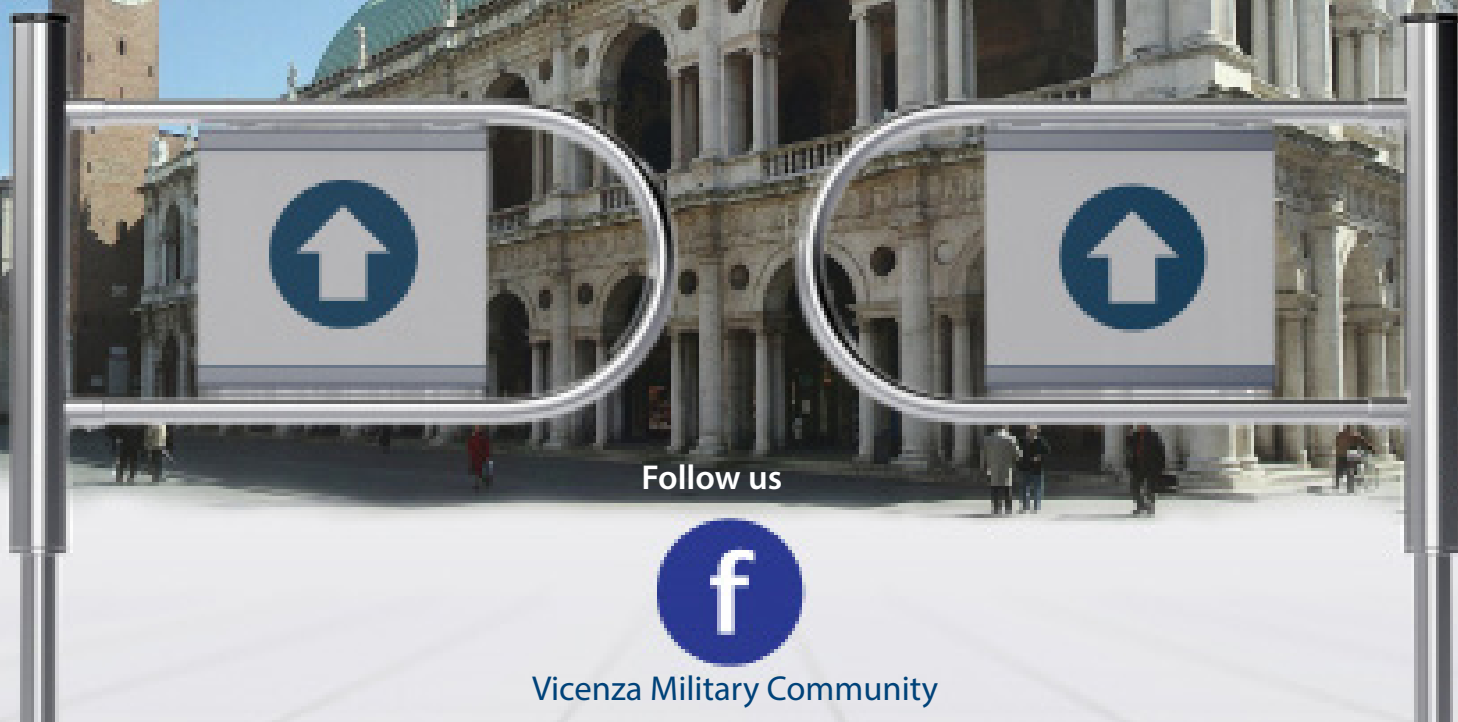
Please stop by or call ACS at
DSN 634-8582/7500 DSN 637-2726





OutsideTheGate

FUORI dal CANCELLO





Brintaal Festival

Ferragosto, Italian national holiday, Aug. 15

Ferragosto is one of the most important Catholic holidays celebrated across Italy. Its great sanctity and widespread observance are due to it being the day on which the Virgin Mary was *assunta in cielo*: in other words, ascended to heaven. The holiday is generally known around the world as Assumption Day. However, as is the case with many other Christian holidays in Italy, Ferragosto has pagan origins: it dates back to the year 18 B.C., when the Roman Emperor Augustus declared that the entire month of August would be dedicated to the *Feriae Augusti*, a series of festivals and celebrations. And while observations have evolved over the centuries, still today Italians like to take some of their *ferie* (annual leave) during the month of August as holiday and leisure time. Many Italians head to the beach or mountains, so there's likely to be lots of traffic along the coast and other highways leading to popular destinations. Public offices and stores are generally closed. Many towns and resorts celebrate their local festivals and conclude the holiday with fireworks.

wines open at 6:30 p.m. Live music and dancing start at 9 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1669044533329197&set=a.1543141109252874.1073741827.100006709998559&type=1&theater>

***Sagra dell'Assunta* Assumption Festival**

Through Aug. 16, 7 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; in Vo' di Brendola, Piazza Roma, about 13 miles south of Vicenza. Food booths open at 7 p.m. Live music and dancing start at 9 p.m.

World Music Live Festival

Through Aug. 22, 9 p.m.; free concerts with international bands in Vicenza, Giardino Salvi. Free entrance.

Aug. 16: Buda Fold Band (Hungary)

Aug. 22: Bisserov Sister (Bulgaria)

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/vicenza/eventi/evento.php/130105>

***Festa della Birra e della Bruschetta* Beer and Bruschetta Fest**

Aug. 20-25, in Marola, Torri di Quartesolo, Sport Center, Via Cedri, about 5 miles east of Vicenza. Food booths featuring the typical bruschetta (i.e. toasted bread seasoned

VENETO

***Sagra dell'Assunta* Assumption Festival**

Aug. 11-15, in Sarego, about 16 miles southwest of Vicenza. Food booths featuring many local specialties and

with garlic, olive oil, etc.) and many other local specialties open at 7 p.m. Live music and entertainment start at 9 p.m. Fireworks on Aug. 25 at 11 p.m.

Sagra di San Bortolo St. Bortolo Festival

Aug. 20-25, in Agugliaro, about 18 miles south of Vicenza. Food booths feature Vicentine cod fish, grilled steaks, mix fried fish and other local specialties. Live music and dancing start at 9 p.m.

<http://www.vicenzae.org/ita/eventi/icalrepeat.detail/2015/08/20/13142/-/sagra-di-san-bortolo-2015>

Festival della Cultura e Musica Celtica Brintaal Celtic Folk Festival

In Bosco delle Fontane, Cison Del Grappa, about 34 miles north of Vicenza. Food booths and local crafts market.

Aug. 22: 9 p.m. Celtic Folk Festival grand opening

Aug. 23: 9 a.m. Nature walk on Asiago hills

Aug. 25: 9 p.m. Whiskey and Nostrano del Brenta cigar tasting

Aug. 27: 9:30 p.m. Live Irish folk music with the Midnight



Balestro del Girifalco

band; 11:30 p.m. live punk folk music with the Dirty Bastards band

Aug. 28: 9:30 p.m. Live folk music with the Spanish Folk on Crest band; 11:30 p.m. Live Irish folk music with the Micro Irish band

Aug. 29: 9:30 p.m. Live folk rock with the Clan band; 11:30 p.m. Live punk folk music with the Mosche di velluto grigio (Grey Velvety Flies) band

Aug. 30: 9 p.m. Live Irish punk folk music with The Mahones band (from Ontario); 11:30 p.m. Live Irish folk music with The Ladies Craic and Pints.

<http://www.brintaalcelticfolk.it/>

Outdoor free fitness classes

Through **Sept. 6**, in Vicenza, Parco Querini, Viale Rodolfi

Mondays: 6:30-7:30 p.m., boot camp (Marine-style fitness classes); 7-8:30 p.m., Tai Chi; 7-8:30 p.m.; 7-8 p.m., Do-in (exercises for physical and mental well-being); 7:30 -8:30 p.m., FITeMOTION, music fitness workouts that include cardiovascular activity, toning and stretching

Tuesdays: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Jazzercise; 7:30-8:30 p.m., belly dancing

Wednesdays: 9-10:30 a.m., Tai Chi; and 9:30-10:30 a.m., fitness and body balance (yoga, Pilates, and Tai Chi); 6:30-7:30 p.m., Zumba fitness; 7-8:15 p.m., yoga; 6:30-8 p.m., Tai Chi

Thursdays: 7-8:30 p.m., hatha yoga and Capoeira classes (August only)

Fridays: 7-8:30 p.m., body balance and sh'bam fitness; 7:15-8:15 p.m., Zumba fitness

Saturdays: July 31, 6-7 p.m., Kung Fu class

Sundays: 9-10:30 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. to noon, self-defense courses

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/cittadino/scheda.php/42729,61194>

Festival delle Mongolfiere Hot Air Balloon Festival

Aug. 29-30, Sept. 5-6, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., in Padova, Ippodromo Le Padovanelle, Via dell'Ippodromo 4, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza. Entertainment for children with bounce houses, shows, and old-fashioned games; fitness, sports, and dance shows; kite workshops for children. Food booths feature local specialties; hot air balloons light up at 9 p.m.; fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are €5; get a discount ticket (€4) by visiting their web site. Free parking.

<http://www.festivaldellemongolfiere.it/PressComunicati.aspx>

Passeggiate in carrozza **Horse-Drawn Carriage Tours**

Through Sept. 30, in Vicenza, each Saturday, 8-11:30 p.m.; in October, 3-8 p.m. Enjoy this unique way of seeing the most beautiful sites in Vicenza; 20-minute tours depart and return to Piazza Biade. The cost is €15 for a maximum of four people at a time.

<http://www.comune.vicenza.it/albo/notizie.php/130717>

Aquae Venezia 2015

Through Oct. 31, Monday-Tuesday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; in Venice Marghera, Via Galileo Ferraris 5; entrance at the corner of Via Pacinotti and Via Galileo Ferraris. Collateral event of the Milan Expo, this exhibition focuses on the importance of water as a fundamental resource for life, never losing sight, however, of the fact that it is also a limited commodity. For full details in English and booking online, visit <http://www.aquae2015.org/learn-more/?lang=en>. <http://www.comune.vicenza.it/albo/notizie.php/130717>

<http://www.aquae2015.org/explore/dive-into-the-experience/settimana-di-apertura-aquae-2015/?lang=en>

Sculpture di sabbia **Festival of Sand Sculptures**

Through Aug. 23, in Jesolo, Piazza Brescia, about 64 miles east of Vicenza. This year's theme is The Great War 100th Anniversary. International artists take part in this special event; they compete in shaping with fine golden sand every kind of artistic figure. Free entrance.

<http://www.comune.jesolo.ve.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/6891>



Bravio delle Botti

AQUAE
VENEZIA 2015

With the Patronage of



MILANO 2015

FEEDING THE PLANET
ENERGY FOR LIFE

Antique markets

Verona: Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., in Piazza S. Zeno, about 38 miles west of Vicenza

Este (Padova): Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Maggiore and Via Matteotti, about 28 miles south of Vicenza

Padova: Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., in Prato della Valle, about 24 miles southeast of Vicenza

Soave: Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antonio Marogna and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, about 23 miles west of Vicenza

Belluno: Aug. 23, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., in Piazza Duomo, about 103 miles north of Vicenza

Spresiano (Treviso): Aug. 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., in Piazza Luciano Rigo, about 43 miles northeast of Vicenza

Treviso: Aug. 23, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Via San Liberale, about 56 miles east of Vicenza



Farmers' Market
Photo by Karin J. Martinez

TUSCANY

Balestro del Girifalco Historical Reenactment

Aug. 14-15, in Massa Marittima (Grosseto), Piazza del Duomo. This festival was first held in the early years of the 14th century: 24 competitors, armed with replicas of 14th century Italian crossbows, used by their ancestors, compete trying to center a target placed 30 meters away. On the back of the target is a painting of the festival's namesake, the girifalco (gyrfalcon), its wings spread wide in flight. The competitor whose arrow hits the center of the target wins.

<http://www.comune.massamarittima.gr.it/le-tradizioni/il-balestro-del-girifalco/>

Antiquariato, Arte, Artigianato Antique, Art, and Craft

Aug. 14-23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3:30-11 p.m., in Pitigliano (Grosseto Piazza Fortezza Orsini, 25; exhibit and sale of antiques, vintage items and local crafts.

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/fiere-mercato/gr/pitigliano/antiquariato-arte-artigianato.html>

Bravio delle Botti Barrels Competition and Festival

Aug. 22-30, in Montepulciano (Siena). This event dates back to the 14th century when races were run on horseback. Only in more recent times has it been transformed in a competition with barrels (botti). Since Montepulciano

is famous worldwide for its red wine Nobile di Montepulciano, the idea came about of using wine barrels for the eight districts to compete against each other to win the bravio, a painted banner depicting the city's patron saint, Saint John.

Aug. 22, 3:30-7 p.m., historical parade of the flag-wavers and drummers; presentation of the cloth; award ceremony of the food and wine competition entitled "At the Table with the Nobles" in Piazza Grande.

Aug. 23-28, 9-11 p.m. barrel-pushing practice for Sunday's competition

Aug. 27, 9:15-11:45 p.m., historical costume parade with knights and noblemen along the streets lit only by flashlights and torches, accompanied by flag-wavers and drummers

Aug. 30: The race takes place with contestants pushing heavy wooden wine barrels for about a kilometer uphill along the narrow streets of the town's historical center. Each barrel is pushed by two strong spingitori (pushers) up to the finish line in Piazza Grande. Along the way, many other residents and fans run alongside each team to encourage them to keep going. Winners receive the bravio at the end of the race in Piazza Grande.

Festa Paesana Town Festival

Through Aug. 16, in Serrazzano, Pomarance (Pisa), Strada Statale 329. Food booths feature grilled fish and meat and many other local specialties. Live music and shows start nightly at 9 p.m.

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=3&city=&date=13&page=1&post=579>

Sagra del Pesce Fish Festival

Through Aug. 23, in Marina di Pisa, Piazza Sardegna. Food booths featuring a great variety of fish specialties open at 7 p.m.

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=7&city=&date=12&page=1&post=741>

Sagra del Polpo Octopus Festival

Through Aug. 16, in Livorno, Via delle Corollaie. Food booths feature local fish specialties; entertainment for children and live music and dancing nightly starts at 9 p.m.

<http://www.sagretoscane.com/cerca?q=&category=&area=4&city=&date=12&page=1&post=1332>

Camminamento di Ronda Walk along fortress walls of Cittadella

Through October 31, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m.; in Cittadella, (Padova), about 16 miles northwest of Vicenza; entrance from the tourist office, Via Porte Bassanesi; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; last entrance: one hour before closure. On Saturday and Sunday, 6-8 p.m., the tour is accompanied by medieval music. The walls and fortifications were built in 1220 to protect the town from territorial attacks; from the walls you can experience views of downtown and even the Dolomite Mountains on a clear, sunny day. Ticket: €5.

<http://turismo.comune.cittadella.pd.it/>



*The Arena in Verona
Photo by Karin J. Martinez*

Verona

A day-trip to Verona is just a short drive or train ride away. Walk through the former walled city, and see the Arena, Castelvecchio, Juliet's House and more.



*Tuscany
Photo by Karin J. Martinez*

Antique markets

Certaldo (Florence): Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Boccaccio e Via 2 Giugno

Florence: Aug. 15-16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Fortezza da Basso Park, Viale Filippo Strozzi 1

Lucca: Aug. 15-16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Antelminelli, Piazza S. Giovanni, Piazza San Giusto, Via San Giovanni, Corte Bertolini

Marina di Grosseto (Grosseto): Aug. 15-16, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Via XXIV Maggio

Pontedera (Pisa): Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., main squares and streets downtown

Quarrata (Pistoia): Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Piazza Risorgimento

Bientina (Pisa): Aug. 22-23, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Piazza Vittorio Emanuele

Castiglione Fiorentino (Arezzo): Aug. 22, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Piazza Del Municipio



John Mayall

Photo by Cesare Greselin

Carl Cox - Aug. 14 in Jesolo

Alpha Blondy - Aug. 28 in Reggio Emilia; Sept. 5 in Ravenna

U2 - Sept. 4-5 in Torino

David Garret - Sept. 2 in Milan; Sept. 3 in Florence, Sept. 5 in Verona; Sept. 6 in Rome

Glenn Hughes - Sept. 15 in Milan

Linkin Park - Sept. 6 in Rome

Tony Allen - Sept. 11 in Bologna

Ennio Morricone - Sept. 12 in Verona

David Gilmour - Sept. 14 in Verona; Sept. 15 in Florence

R5 - Sept. 17 in Ciampino; Sept. 20 in Milan

Mika - Sept. 27 in Assago, Sept. 29 in Rome; Sept. 30

in Florence

Steve Hackett - Sept. 29 in Padova

Crosby, Stills and Nash - Oct. 1 in Milan, Oct. 3 in Padova, Oct. 4 in Rome

Joe Satriani - Oct. 5 in Assago (Milan), Oct. 6 in Florence, Oct. 7 in Rome

Take That - Oct. 13 in Assago (Milan)

BeatleStory - Oct. 17 in Bologna

John Mayall - Oct. 17 in Bologna; Oct. 10 in La Spezia; Oct. 19 in Milan

Dave Matthews Band - Oct. 17 in Assago (Milan); Oct. 18 in Florence; Oct. 20 in Rome; Oct. 21 in Padova

Epic Rap Battles of History - Oct. 21 in Bologna

Nickelback - Oct. 25 in Rome; Oct. 27 in Turin

Deep Purple - Oct. 30 in Padova; Oct. 31 in Assago (Milan); Nov. 5 in Florence; Nov. 6 in Rome

Kid Ink - Nov. 1 in Milan

Scorpions - Nov. 9 in Rome; Nov. 11 in Assago (Milan); Nov. 13 in Trieste

Supertramp - Nov. 9 in Assago (Milan)

Marilyn Manson - Nov. 9 in Florence

Simply Red - Nov. 14 in Rome; Nov. 15 in Assago (Milan)

Zelda - The Symphony of Goddesses - Nov. 15 in Rome

Simple Minds - Nov. 21 in Assago (Milan)

Madonna - Nov. 19, Nov. 21-22 in Torino

Europe - Nov. 28 in Milan

Jethro Tull Rock Opera feat Ian Anderson - Nov. 29 in Bologna

Rae Sremmurd - Nov. 30 in Milan

SPORTING EVENTS

Formula 1 Gran Prix - Sept. 4-6, in Monza

MotoGP - Italian Grand Prix - Sept. 11-13, at Misano Circuit, San Marino

BlancpainGT Series - Oct. 2-4, in Misano Adriatico

Misano Classic Weekend - Vintage motorcycles on stage - Oct. 9-11, in Misano Adriatico

Tickets are available in Vicenza at Media World, Palladio Shopping Center, or online at http://www.greenticket.it/index.html?imposta_lingua=ing ; <http://www.ticketone.it/EN/> or <http://www.zedlive.com>.